

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respond herein to the Office Action of September 25, 2007.

Claims 1-4 were rejected in the Office Action. Applicants have amended Claim 1, canceled Claims 3 and 4 and respectfully request a reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 1-4 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Santa Cruz et al (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0092158) in view of Oskorep. Unfortunately, the Examiner omitted the number for the cited Oskorep reference. Applicants assume that the Examiner meant the U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0074369. Appropriate correction of the PTO-892 form is respectfully requested.

Claim 1, as amended, recites a plectrum holder (3) in combination with a plectrum (1). Plectrum holder includes a finger ring (4) which can be placed on the index finger of a user, as shown for example, in Figs. 4 and 5 of the present Application. The ring has an outer surface and a flat elongated magnetic surface (5) formed on the outer surface. Further, plectrum (1) includes an elongated conductive section (2). As described on page 3, lines 5-10 of the original specification, because the magnetic surface (5) and the conductive section (2) are both elongated, plectrum (1) is automatically positioned at a predetermined position of the finger ring, i.e., against the magnetic surface (5), as shown in Fig. 5, when the plectrum is brought near the finger ring. These limitations of Claim 1 are not disclosed in the cited prior art.

Santa Cruz discloses a finger ring (10) connected to a pick (12) by a tether (14). As shown in Fig. 1 of Santa Cruz, tether (14) may include a magnet (38) allowing "a user to magnetically attach finger ring (10) with attached pick (12) onto a metallic surface ... for storage purposes when not in use." See, par [0033] of Santa Cruz. Santa Cruz, accordingly, does not disclose or suggest "a flat elongated magnetic surface formed on the outer surface" of the finger ring or "the plectrum being positioned against the flat elongated magnetic surface of the finger ring," as required by the amended Claim 1. Moreover, Santa Cruz does not disclose or suggest the "elongated conductive section" of the plectrum that cooperates "with the flat elongated magnetic surface of the finger ring to secure the plectrum at a predetermined position of the finger ring," as also required by the amended Claim 1.

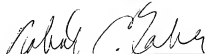
Oskorep does not remedy the identified deficiencies of the Santa Cruz reference. Oskorep teaches guitar picks 110 which incorporate magnetically receptive material 112 which secures the picks to a magnetic guitar pick holder positioned on a body of a guitar. Oskorep, however, fails to disclose or suggest “a flat elongated magnetic surface formed on the outer surface” of a finger ring or the “elongated conductive section” of the plectrum that cooperates “with the flat elongated magnetic surface of the finger ring to secure the plectrum at a predetermined position of the finger ring,” as required by the amended Claim 1.

Accordingly, Claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record. Claim 2 depends from Claim 1. Therefore, Claim 2 is allowable over the cited prior art at least for the same reasons as Claim 1 and, further, on its own merits.

Favorable reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of Claims 1-2 is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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